



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, In 46278

October 23, 2003

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN300-4-1

SUBJECT: LTP- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) Fiscal Year 2004.

Purpose: To gather information for the development of the Indiana FRPP plan for FY 04.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

Action Required By: COB November 5, 2003

The 2002 Farm Bill provided significant funding for the FRPP. For fiscal year 2004, NRCS will be ready to implement the program and obligate funds within 30 days of the closing of the Request for Proposals. To accomplish this, we will revise the Indiana FRPP plan by November 14, 2003 and submit it to National Headquarters as our funding request for FY 04. We have the opportunity to request funding only for those potential FRPP easements that have been identified in our state plan.

If you know of any state, tribal, local government, RC&D, land trust, or other non-governmental organizations that have an interest in utilizing the FRPP program to protect working agricultural lands, please provide the following information to Jim Dunaway by COB November 5, 2003:

- Name, address, and contact person for the organization (sponsor)
- Acres of prime farmland to be protected
- Acres of the proposed easement
- Estimated total cost of the easement or cost per acre
- % of easement cost that sponsor currently has

Additionally, if you are aware of individual landowners that are interested in protecting agricultural land through an easement, forward their contact information to Jim Dunaway, or Dwayne Howard and they will try to locate potential sponsors for the parcel.

We anticipate that the FRPP program will move quickly this year. The projected timeline is November through February. We expect that all funds will be allocated to sponsors by the end of February, so it is important for Indiana to include all potential FRPP easements in the FY04 State FRPP Plan.

I am requesting that NRCS District Conservationists provide a copy of this bulletin to their local extension office.

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For additional information on the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program visit the NRCS web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fpp/> .

If you have any questions concerning the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, please contact Dwayne Howard at ext. 386, or Jim Dunaway at ext. 334.

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

cc: Harry Nikides, IDNR, 402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204